GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5419
ANSWERED ON:06.04.2017
National Mineral Policy, 2008
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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Mineral Policy, 2008 is promoting illegal mining in place of carrying out optimum utilisation of resources and exploiting the tribal people;
(b) if so, the efforts made to make amendments in the said policy; and
(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): No Madam. The National Mineral Policy, 2008 promotes optimum utilization of resources and at the same time has provisions for curbing illegal mining and prevention of exploitation of tribal people. The salient features in this regard are as follows:

(i) Minerals being a valuable resource, extraction have to be optimized through scientific methods, beneficiation and economic utilization with Zero waste mining as the goal.

(ii) The regulatory environment will be made more conducive to investment. Transparency in allocations of concession will be assured with security of tenure to a concessionaire.

(iii) A framework of sustainable development will be designed to ensure that mining can take place along with restoration.

(iv) Mining shall not be undertaken in ecologically fragile or biologically rich areas. Mining in forest areas will be accompanied by time-bound reclamation.

(v) Special care will be taken to protect the interest of host and indigenous (tribal) populations on the basis of international best practice. Project affected persons will be protected through comprehensive relief and rehabilitation packages in line with the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Policy.

(vi) Mining sectoral value addition through beneficiation, calibration, blending, sizing, concentration, pelletisation, purification and customization will be encouraged.

(vii) State agencies involved in mineral sector development and regulation will be encouraged to modernize in the areas of prospecting as well as regulation.

(viii) States will be assisted to overcome the problem of illegal mining through operational and financial linkages with the Indian Bureau of Mines.

(ix) To exploit the country's geological potential it will be ensured that Regional and Detailed Explorations are carried out systematically in the entire geologically conducive mineral bearing area of the country using state- of-the-art techniques.

(x) To promote the use of state of the art exploration techniques, scientific mining and optimal use of minerals, special impetus will be given to research and development and to the establishment of appropriate educational and training facilities for human resource development to meet the manpower requirements of the mineral industry.

(xi) The revenues from minerals will be rationalised to ensure that the mineral bearing states get a fair share of the value of the minerals extracted from their grounds.

The Government is effectively implementing the National Mineral Policy, 2008 to achieve its objectives for optimum utilization of resources, curbing illegal mining and to prevent exploitation of tribal people.

(b) and (c): Does not arise in view of the reply given to (a) above.
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